



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, September 21, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that the secretaries general of the LDP and the Democratic Party held a meeting this morning, during which DP Secretary General Oshima lodged a protest against Prime Minister Abe's plan to dissolve the Lower House at the beginning of the extraordinary Diet session. Most commercial networks led with reports on PM Abe's speech at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, saying the speech primarily on North Korea.

INTERNATIONAL

DOS spokesperson explains President's speech at UNGA

NHK's "News Watch 9" aired a segment of its one-on-one interview with DOS spokesperson Nauert, during which she talked about President Trump's speech at the UN General Assembly session in New York on Tuesday. The program highlighted the President's remarks that "rocket man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime" and "if the U.S. is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." The program said it asked Nauert about the President's intention behind his extreme remarks. She was quoted as saying in response: "The president is just trying to make it clear how outraged the world is by the activities of Kim Jong Un and how important it is to pull the world together to get the world to put pressure on North Korea."

- [Full text of Japan PM Abe's address at U.N. General Assembly](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Japan PM Abe's address at U.N. General Assembly](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Trump asks to sit beside Abe at UN luncheon, calls him “strong”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan welcomes Trump’s rebuke of North Korea’s abduction of Japanese](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: President Trump’s speech at UNGA demonstrated resolve to stop North](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: What can be gained through intimidation?](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan foreign minister defends N. Korea policy after father’s gibe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Over 40 nations sign nuke weapons ban treaty at ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)
- [G-4 calls for launching text-based talks on U.N. reform in year](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan reaffirms commitment to peacekeeping at U.N.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Turkey agree to speed up negotiations on free trade deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Karen Kelley appointed as the first female U.S. Consul General](#) (Mainichi)
- [U.S. Consul General Karen Kelley says “U.S.-Japan cooperation indispensable”](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, France agree to pursue further security cooperation](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Pacific island states affirm climate cooperation](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

U.S. military conducts parachute training at Kadena AB

TV Asahi reported that the U.S. military conducted parachute drop training at Kadena AB this morning despite calls from the central and local government for the cancellation of the training. The network said 16 U.S. service members parachuted from a plane at about 7:30 a.m. The network quoted Kadena Town Mayor Toyama as saying: "We can't help but wonder whether the U.S. military will use Kadena AB as a permanent training site. It's unacceptable." The network added that although the governments of Japan and the U.S. agreed that parachute drop drills would be conducted at Ie Jima Auxiliary Airfield except in certain situations, the parachute drills have already been conducted at Kadena three times this year, adding that the local community is reacting sharply to the U.S. military's making light of the agreement.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 19-20, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe to dissolve lower house without policy speech on Sept. 28](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP's election pledge to highlight Abenomics, Constitution revision](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Three options for opposition parties' election cooperation in upcoming race](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [New political party to field candidates nationwide](#) (Mainichi)
- [Report on DP chief Maehara's "intimate" photos with North Korean woman in 1999](#) (Shukan Bunshun)
- [Column: DP to disintegrate or revive depending on Maehara's leadership](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Editorial: Security laws a basis for dealing with threats posed by N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

TPP meeting begins in Tokyo

NHK reported that a meeting of the chief negotiators of the 11 TPP member states began in Tokyo this morning. Japanese chief negotiator Umemoto, the meeting chair, called for cooperation to reach a broad agreement at the planned APEC summit in November. "It is also important to continue to pursue the possibility of the United States returning to this framework," said Umemoto. "For that purpose, it's very important to implement the TPP as soon as possible." Following the withdrawal of the U.S., the 11 members are planning to partially freeze the items that were included at the request of the U.S. At the meeting, the participants are expected to examine these items. The network said the GOJ wants to avoid amending the contents of the agreement in the hope that the U.S. will return to the framework, adding that it is planning to take the lead in identifying the items to be frozen while assessing the interests of each nation.

- [TPP negotiators meet to discuss freezes to text after U.S. pullout](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toshiba to sell chip unit to Japan-U.S.-S. Korea group for \\$21 bil.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Bain accord brings Toshiba Memory saga closer to resolution](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tepco promises legal safety vow as it seeks to restart reactors](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Hitachi picks US for global internet of things HQ](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Surge in biomass power plant construction due to impending cuts in feed-in tariffs](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Guatemala's first satellite to be deployed from Japan's Kibo](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, Germany to launch asteroid probe](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Caregivers struggle to provide personal hygiene support for elderly

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that as the number of elderly people who require in-home care is increasing due to the aging population in Japan, many caregivers are secretly having problems with the issue of changing diapers and providing personal hygiene support for the elderly. According to the program, more than 60% of those who have cared for the elderly said "personal hygiene support" was their number one problem. The program said many people are reluctant to seek help due to the sensitivity of the issue, but seminars are being offered to teach better ways to provide personal hygiene support for elderly patients.

- [Japanese men wrongly believe other men dislike paternity leave: study](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Police report over 30,000 children abused in 2017 1st half](#) (Kyodo News)